

**10<sup>th</sup> Arab Nations Championship****13-17 Nov. 2024****1<sup>st</sup> Jeddah International Bridge Festival****15-20 Nov. 2024****Bulletin 06****Tuesday, 19 November 2024**Editor: **Brian Senior**Layout Editor: **Francesca Canali**Photographer: **Ms. Lenda Qari**

# MIXED CHAMPIONS DECIDED



The Mixed Pairs Champions were decided on Monday with 62 pairs playing 2 x 24-board sessions. The winners were May Rifai and Amjad Demashkeih with 6.12%, with Elvan and Timur Edis second on 58.93% and Kariman Mazher and Ahmed Samir Zaki taking third with 58.35%. Congratulations to all.

It's interesting to note that all these scores are much lower than the equivalent positions in the Festival Open Pairs, suggesting that there was a significantly more even standard in the Mixed field than in the Open.

Tuesday is the first of two days of the Festival Team Championship, five matches commencing at 4-00 pm, with another four rounds to be played on Wednesday. Enjoy your half-day off.

# YESTERDAY'S QUIZ - SOLUTION

Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 7 6 3		
	♥ A 7 4		
	♦ K		
	♣ A J 7 6 5 2		
♠ 10 2	♠ A 4	♥ J 8 6 5	
♥ Q 10 3	♥ J 8 6 5	♦ 7 6 4 2	
♦ Q J 10 5	♣ 10 9 4		
♣ K Q 8 3			
	♠ K Q J 9 8 5		
	♥ K 9 2		
	♦ A 9 8 3		
	♣ -		



Six Spades would be an excellent contract on anything but the lead of ace and another trump, as you could play for two diamond ruffs in the dummy. The bad news is that West leads the two of spades to his partner's ace and East returns the four of spades. The good news is that West follows with the ten, so at least the trumps have all been drawn. How will you come to a twelfth trick?

There are some small chances – ♣KQx, allowing the suit to be ruffed out and the jack established, or ♦QJ10, when the nine can be established. Neither is a great chance. The third possibility is a squeeze.

Win the second spade and play a diamond to the king then ruff a club, ruff a diamond and ruff a second club. Now cash the two remaining spades. This is the actual ending:

	♠ -		
	♥ A 7 4		
	♦ -		
	♣ A J 7		
♠ -	♠ -	♥ J 8 6 5	
♥ Q 10	♥ J 8 6 5	♦ 7	
♦ Q J	♣ 10		
♣ K Q			
	♠ 9		
	♥ K 9 2		
	♦ A 9		
	♣ -		



Declarer cashes the last trump and West is squeezed in all three side-suits. If he throws a minor, the twelfth trick is conceded immediately. So he throws a heart, coming down to bare queen, and dummy throws a club. Now declarer cashes the ace of diamonds, throwing a heart from dummy. Had

the ♦9 been established, declarer could now have cashed it. No such luck, so declarer leads a heart to dummy and cashes the ace of clubs, throwing his diamond loser. Again, if the ♣J has been established, it can now be cashed. So the squeeze is an extra chance – it does not give up on either of the more straightforward possibilities.

Finally, declarer leads a heart and finesses the nine for his contract – a compound guard squeeze, no less.

Is the ending a sure thing? Well, no, even when there is a squeeze you will have to read the ending. West could have begun with ♥QJ10 and each defender be guarding one of the minors. In that case, the ending would be a routine double squeeze and the winning play at trick twelve would be a heart to the king, dropping the jack in the West hand. One defender would have the ♣K and the other the ♦Q for trick thirteen. This squeeze would work whatever the heart layout, as long as only one defender could guard each minor, whereas the guard squeeze requires West to have two heart honours as well as the minor-suit guards. But any self-respecting expert would surely go for the guard squeeze as they are quite rare beasts, not to be wasted, while double squeezes are two-a-penny.






# MIXED PAIRS – SESSION 1

For the first session of the Mixed pairs I opted to watch the young Greek pair who had put together three excellent sessions to finish third in The Open Pairs – Ioanna Pollatou and Iasonas Papaspirou. Alas, I didn't bring them much luck.


Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ Q J 8		
	♥ 8 4 2		
	♦ Q J 10 5 2		
	♣ Q 8		
♠ K 5 2		♠ A 9 7 6	
♥ J 10 5		♥ K 9 6	
♦ 6 4 3		♦ A K	
♣ 10 7 6 2		♣ K 9 4 3	
	♠ 10 4 3		
	♥ A Q 7 3		
	♦ 9 8 7		
	♣ A J 5		

West	North	East	South
Skordas	Papaspirou	Paseli	Pollatou
–	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Paseli opened 1NT and was left to play there, Ioanna leading the four of spades to the two, jack and ace. Paseli led a low club to the ten and queen, and Iasonas returned the queen of diamonds, declarer winning the ace and leading a low heart. Ioanna went in with the queen and played the ten of spades to dummy's king. A club went to the king and ace and Ioanna played ace and another heart to establish her long card in the suit. On winning the next club, she could cash the heart then lead a spade to Iasonas's queen and that was down one; +50 to N/S and a 52% board.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.


	♠ 9 6		
	♥ Q 9 7 6		
	♦ A 9 7 3		
	♣ 7 5 3		
♠ Q 10 5 2		♠ 8 7 4 3	
♥ 5 2		♥ A J 10 4 3	
♦ Q 6 5		♦ 10 4	
♣ A Q J 9		♣ K 6	
	♠ A K J		
	♥ K 8		
	♦ K J 8 2		
	♣ 10 8 4 2		

West	North	East	South
Skordas	Papaspirou	Paseli	Pollatou
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Ioanna opened 1NT and, after two passes, Paseli used a Landy 2♣ to show both majors. Skordas responded 2♠ and played there.

Iasonas led the nine of spades to the king, and Ioanna switched to the two of diamonds to her partner's ace. Iasonas now switched to a club, so Skordas could win the king and play two more rounds to dispose of dummy's second diamond loser. Next he led a heart to the jack and king and Ioanna played the king of diamonds, which was ruffed in dummy and a spade led towards the queen. Ioanna won the ace but that was all for the defence; nine tricks for –140 and only 5% for N/S.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.


	♠ A 4		
	♥ 10 8 7 6		
	♦ J 10 7 3		
	♣ A 6 2		
♠ 10 9 5 3 2		♠ K Q J 6	
♥ 5 2		♥ J 9 4 3	
♦ Q 8 6 5 2		♦ K 9	
♣ 3		♣ J 8 4	
	♠ 8 7		
	♥ A K Q		
	♦ A 4		
	♣ K Q 10 9 7 5		

West	North	East	South
Zaben	Papaspirou	Azzam	Pollatou
–	–	–	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ioanna opened 2NT, 20-21 or occasionally 19. Iasonas asked about majors, the reply saying n five-card major, so he settled for 3NT.

Zaben found the best lead of a spade, choosing the ten. Ioanna won the ace and led a club to the king then cashed the three top hearts in case they might be evenly divided, then all the clubs. The defensive discarding was accurate so there were just the 11 top tricks to be had for +460 and a 58% score.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.


	♠ A 6 3		
	♥ Q 7 5 2		
	♦ 8 4		
	♣ A J 7 3		
♠ K J 10 5		♠ Q 9 7 4 2	
♥ K 10		♥ 9 3	
♦ K 5 3		♦ A 10 7 6	
♣ Q 9 8 5		♣ 10 4	
	♠ 8		
	♥ A J 8 6 4		
	♦ Q J 9 2		
	♣ K 6 2		

West	North	East	South
Zaben	Papaspirou	Azzam	Pollatou
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Ioanna overcalled 2♥ then declined the game invitation, but Iasonas had always intended to get to game and had just cuebid to let her know his 4♥ was bid to make in case of further competition.

Zaben led the jack of spades, Ioanna winning the ace and playing ace and another heart to the king. Back came the king of spades, which Ioanna ruffed. She played king of clubs and a club to the jack, then a diamond to the jack and king. Two diamond ruffs in the dummy meant that declarer had just one more diamond loser, so had 10 tricks for +620 and 93% of the matchpoints, most of the field having stopped short of game.


Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ A 4 2		
	♥ K J 7 5 3		
	♦ A 4		
	♣ 9 7 3		
♠ K Q 9 6		♠ 3	
♥ 8 6 4		♥ Q 10 9 2	
♦ Q J 5 3		♦ 8 2	
♣ A Q		♣ 10 8 6 5 4 2	
	♠ J 10 8 7 5		
	♥ A		
	♦ K 10 9 7 6		
	♣ K J		

West	North	East	South
Najjar	Papaspirou	Jahangir	Pollatou
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Ioanna used game-forcing checkback to find the five-three spade fit then bid the spade game. She received a heart lead to the ten and ace and led a diamond to the ace to take a club pitch on the king of hearts. A heart ruff was followed by a diamond to the king and a third diamond, ruffed with the two and over-ruffed with the three. That was a trick which did not have to be lost, though admittedly playing East for the stiff three of trumps isn't all that obvious. Back came a club to the king and ace, and the queen of clubs continuation was ruffed. A diamond was ruffed with the ♠4 then the ace of spades cashed, confirming the bad news. Ioanna ruffed a club with the ♠10 and Najjar had the last three tricks, so the contract was down two for -200 and a 48% score – no doubt it felt worse than that to Ioanna.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.


	♠ Q 8		
	♥ A Q 6 5 3		
	♦ K 6		
	♣ A J 7 4		
♠ 10 3		♠ A K 9 5 4	
♥ K J 10 8 7		♥ 9 4	
♦ 9 8 5 4 3		♦ Q J	
♣ 2		♣ K 9 5 3	
	♠ J 7 6 2		
	♥ 2		
	♦ A 10 7 2		
	♣ Q 10 8 6		

West	North	East	South
Najjar	Papaspirou	Jahangir	Pollatou
–	–	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Jahangir opened 1♠ and that ran around to Iasonas, who had 16 HCP and a five-card suit. Of course, he overcalled 2♥, where he was left to play.

Jahangir cashed the ace of spades, saw his partner's three, and continued with a low spade to the ten and queen. Iasonas led the six of diamonds to the jack and ace then led the queen of clubs and ran it. Jahangir returned the queen of diamonds to the king. Thinking to take the heart finesse, Iasonas led a low club to dummy's ten, only for it to be ruffed on his right and a diamond led through. Iasonas discarded the ace of clubs so Jahangir ruffed low and gave his partner a second club ruff. Another diamond allowed Jahangir to get a ruff with the ♥9 and now he played the king of spades. That was ruffed and over-ruffed, and Iasonas played two rounds of hearts, emerging with six tricks in his unpleasant contract, so down two for -100 and a 22% score.


Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ K J 3 ♥ J 5 ♦ K J 6 5 3 ♣ A 9 3		
♠ Q 9 8 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ K 7 4 2		♠ 10 7 6 5 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A 10 8 7 ♣ J 5	
	♠ A 4 ♥ A 10 9 7 6 2 ♦ 4 ♣ Q 10 8 6		

West	North	East	South
<i>Farraj</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The 2♣ response was game-forcing but did not necessarily promise a club suit and the 2NT rebid still did not promise that the club bid was genuine – as indeed it was not. Ioanna bid the heart game, against which Farraj led the nine of spades. Ioanna put in the jack and, when it scored, unblocked the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs, and took a diamond pitch on the king of spades. Next she ran the jack of hearts, losing to the king. Farraj played queen and another club, and Heshmat could ruff with the eight. There was still the queen of hearts to come, so that was down one for –100 and 32% on the board.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ A 9 5 ♥ 9 8 5 2 ♦ J 7 4 2 ♣ 7 6		
♠ K 8 4 ♥ K J 7 6 ♦ K 10 ♣ Q 9 8 4		♠ Q 10 7 6 ♥ A ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ K J 5 3 2	
	♠ J 3 2 ♥ Q 10 4 3 ♦ A Q 5 3 ♣ A 10		


West	North	East	South
<i>Farraj</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Heshmat</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	2♥	3♣	All Pass

Ioanna did not come into the live auction at her first turn, but made a balancing double once her opponents subsided in 1NT and Iasonas opted for the major rather than his slightly stronger diamonds.

Two Hearts was not going to be much fun with three trump losers, a losing diamond finesse, and mirror distribution. I suspect that Iasonas didn't mind too much when Heshmat competed to 3♣.

Iasonas led the four of diamonds to his partner's ace. Ioanna continued with the three of diamonds to Farraj's king, and Farraj led a club to the king and ace. Back came the ten of clubs, Farraj winning the queen, cashing the ace of hearts, and leading a spade to the king and ace. She ruffed the diamond return and led a spade to the ten, losing to the jack. The contract was just made for –110 to N/S but 65%, a reward for getting the opposition out of 1NT and then defending accurately.


Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ 4 3 ♥ J 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ 8 7		
♠ 10 9 5 ♥ A K ♦ K 5 3 ♣ K J 9 6 5		♠ K Q 8 6 2 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ Q 4	
	♠ A J 7 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A Q 7 6 ♣ A 10 3 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bander</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Harb</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	2♦	2♠	2NT
3♠	All Pass		

Iasonas opened a weak-only multi, and the hand certainly qualified as weak! Harb made a very aggressive overcall and Ioanna bid 2NT – natural, or an enquiry as if there had been no overcall? Now Bander made what looked like a huge underbid, merely competing to 3♠ with 14 HCP facing a two-level overcall. But right she was as, with the ace-jack of spades sitting over the king-queen, there were two trump losers to go with two aces, and 3♠ made exactly for –140 and only 20% for N/S. E/W can make 3NT, but nobody bid it.


Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ K 10 6		
	♥ A 7 4		
	♦ Q 7		
	♣ 10 7 6 5 4		
♠ Q J 8 7		♠ 5 3 2	
♥ K Q J 9		♥ 10 6 2	
♦ 10 8 3		♦ K J 9 6 4 2	
♣ K 2		♣ 3	
	♠ A 9 4		
	♥ 8 5 3		
	♦ A 5		
	♣ A Q J 9 8		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bander</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Harb</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Greeks had a simple auction to 3NT, against which Bander led the king of hearts and continued with the jack then nine when Ioanna ducked twice. The club finesse lost and Bander cashed the thirteenth heart, Ioanna discarding the ♠10 from dummy and a club from hand. Bander got out with the queen of spades to dummy's king and now Ioanna cashed all the clubs. She had had an ending in mind with a possible squeeze but suddenly noticed that she had forgotten to cash the ace of diamonds, the necessary Vienna Coup to set up the possible squeeze ending. However, as the ♦K was not in the same hand as the spades there was no squeeze, so no harm done. The contract was one down for –100 and 38% to N/S.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ Q 8 6 2		
	♥ –		
	♦ Q 5 4 3		
	♣ J 10 7 6 2		
♠ 9 7 5		♠ A 10 4	
♥ A 7 5 4		♥ 10 9 8 6 3	
♦ A 10 6 2		♦ K 9 7	
♣ A 3		♣ K 4	
	♠ K J 3		
	♥ K Q J 2		
	♦ J 8		
	♣ Q 9 8 5		


West	North	East	South
<i>Elvan</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Dble	3♣	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

I doubt that Iasonas's pre-emptive club raise made much difference, as Timur might well have bid 4♥ anyway. Ioanna doubled on the strength of her trump holding, and that concluded the auction.

Ioanna's club lead was won with dummy's ace and Timur led a low heart to Ioanna's jack. She led a second club, Timur winning the king and leading the ten of hearts to the queen and ace. He played a third heart to the King and Ioanna got off play with her fourth heart.

Timur played king then nine of diamonds, ducking Ioanna's jack. By this point in the play, Iasonas had pitched a diamond, so it cost nothing to overtake with his queen to lead a spade through declarer. Switch the ace and king around and that might have mattered. As it was, Timur could win the ♠A, take a discard on the fourth diamond, and just concede one spade trick for down one, +100, and 80% to N/S.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ A K Q J 6 5		
	♥ K		
	♦ K 5 3 2		
	♣ 8 7		
♠ 4		♠ 10 8 7 3	
♥ J 9 7 5		♥ A 10 6 4 3	
♦ J 10 9 4		♦ 8	
♣ 9 6 5 3		♣ K 10 2	
	♠ 9 2		
	♥ Q 8 2		
	♦ A Q 7 6		
	♣ A Q J 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Elvan</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Timur</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Again, the 2♣ response did not promise clubs. Iasonas showed his second suit and Ioanna raised them, but he then went back to spades and she raised them also. Key-card found two, so Iasonas jumped to the small slam.

Timur cashed the ace of hearts and switched to the ten of clubs. Nobody is going to take the finesse in this position and Iasonas was no exception. He rose with the ace and drew trumps then led a diamond to the queen and took a club pitch on the queen of hearts. He led the queen of clubs off the dummy next but didn't know about the diamond split as yet so had no reason to run it – not that doing so would have been successful. He ruffed then cashed his last

spade and tried to split the diamonds; down one for -100 and 7%.


Eight pairs bid and made 6♠ while five went down.

Declarer should take his club pitch at trick three. Now he can choose between two possible lines to cater to diamonds being four-one.

One is to try to ruff out the club, making when the king does ruff out, when diamonds are three-two, or if four diamonds and the ♣K are in the same hand. In that case he will ruff a club at trick two and throw a diamond on the fourth trump, having already pitched the small heart. A diamond to the ace is followed by a second club ruff and, on the actual layout, that makes the contract. If the ♣K does not appear, declarer just hopes to split the diamonds.

The second line is to draw trumps then play king of diamonds and a diamond to the queen. If the suit is three-two, claim. When diamonds are four-one, take the ruffing club finesse as the extra chance. That, of course, does not work on the actual layout.


Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ K 9 4 2		
	♥ J 7 5		
	♦ A Q 7		
	♣ 10 9 4		
♠ A Q 8 5 3		♠ 7	
♥ 4 2		♥ A K 10 9	
♦ J 9 6 5		♦ 10 8 3 2	
♣ A 2		♣ 8 6 5 3	
	♠ J 10 6		
	♥ Q 8 6 3		
	♦ K 4		
	♣ K Q J 7		

West	North	East	South
<i>Koussa</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Abbad</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Rebidding that ropery spade suit in the face of a 1NT bid over you and vulnerable is a pretty wild action, and it did not pay off. Declarer won the lead of the ten of clubs with the ace and crossed to the ace of hearts to lead a spade to the queen and king. The defence played two rounds of clubs, so declarer ruffed and played a heart to the king then ruffed a heart. But when declarer next exited with a diamond, there was no way to make more than the ace of spades in the ending so the contract was down two for +200 to N/S, and a 93% score.


Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ K 6 5		
	♥ 10 8 6 5 4 3		
	♦ K 8 6 3		
	♣ –		
♠ 10 7 3		♠ Q J 4 2	
♥ A		♥ Q J 9 7 2	
♦ 10 7 4 2		♦ 9 5	
♣ A Q J 5 3		♣ 10 4	
	♠ A 9 8		
	♥ K		
	♦ A Q J		
	♣ K 9 8 7 6 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Koussa</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Abbad</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
2♣	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Ioanna found herself in a hopeless 3NT. The opening lead of the jack of clubs did her no harm, as she could win the king and play the nine of clubs back. Koussa did not make the mistake of putting in the queen, which would have been fatal to the defence. He played low so Abbad won the ten and led a heart through to the king and ace. Koussa switched to the ten of spades. Ioanna won in hand, cashed three diamonds, then crossed to the king of spades to cash the fourth diamond, but that was down two for -100 and 47%.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ K 10 9 8		
	♥ 10 4		
	♦ J 9 5 4		
	♣ Q 10 6		
♠ J 4 3 2		♠ Q 7	
♥ K Q J 8 3		♥ A 9 6 5	
♦ K		♦ 8 7 6 2	
♣ 9 8 4		♣ K J 7	
	♠ A 6 5		
	♥ 7 2		
	♦ A Q 10 3		
	♣ A 5 3 2		


West	North	East	South
<i>Magdy</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Hindo</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	–	1NT
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Ioanna opened 1NT and Magdy overcalled 2♦, showing both majors. Hinda had an easy choice



2♥, and played there. Ioanna led the seven of hearts to the three, four and nine. Hindi played a diamond, Ioanna winning the ace and playing a second trump. Hindi won dummy's king and led a spade to the queen and ace. Back came a low diamond. She ruffed and led the four of clubs and, confident that at least the ace must be offside, put in the seven. When that forced the ace she had two club tricks and nine in all; -140 and 45% to N/S.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

	♠ K Q 7 2		
	♥ 5 3		
	♦ K Q 5		
	♣ J 9 3 2		
♠ J 9		♠ 8 3	
♥ K 7 6		♥ A 10 8 4	
♦ J 10 4 3 2		♦ A 7 6	
♣ K Q 10		♣ A 8 6 4	
	♠ A 10 6 5 4		
	♥ Q J 9 2		
	♦ 9 8		
	♣ 7 5		


West	North	East	South
<i>Magdy</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

Iasonas opened a mini NT, 10-13, and Ioanna transferred to spades, Iasonas breaking the transfer to 3♠ because he had good four-card support and an above minimum hand for his opening bid. Three

Spades really should have ended the auction, but Magdy made a balancing double on a hand that was too balanced for this to be wise, and Hindi took it out into 4♥, which Ioanna doubled.

Ioanna led the seven of clubs, which Hindi won with the king. She gave up a spade and Iasonas split his honours and won the trick with the queen. Thinking to give his partner a ruff, he returned a club round to the queen-ten and Hindi won it cheaply then cashed the king and ace of hearts and followed that with the ♣Q. Ioanna ruffed that, cashed her second trump trick, then the ace of spades, and played another spade. Hindi could ruff and cash the minor-suit aces, but that was down three for +800 and all the matchpoints for N/S.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ A Q 7		
	♥ K J 9 8 5 3		
	♦ 8 5 4 2		
	♣ -		
♠ K 6 4		♠ 10 9 5	
♥ A 4 2		♥ 10 6	
♦ A		♦ Q J 6	
♣ J 8 7 6 4 3		♣ A K 10 5 2	
	♠ J 8 3 2		
	♥ Q 7		
	♦ K 10 9 7 3		
	♣ Q 9		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sabagh</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Al Tagi</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
-	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		






Iasonas opened a constructive weak two bid, showing about 8-11, and that went round to Sabagh who overcalled 3♣. Expecting to be able to run six club tricks, Al Tagi asked for a heart stopper and Sabagh admitted to having one.

Iasonas led a heart to the ten, queen, and duck, and Ioanna returned the ♥7. that was again ducked, and Iasonas let the seven hold the trick, in hope of getting a spade through from partner. What he got was a diamond, Sabagh winning the bare ace and cashing two top clubs then playing the jack of diamonds off the dummy. Winning that and pushing a spade through would have beaten the contract, but Ioanna had rather lost the plot and it didn't register with her that partner had to have good spades for both his bidding and trick two defence to make sense. She played back a diamond to the queen, and Sabagh gratefully cashed her club winners and the ♥A. She was awarded 10 tricks, when I can only see nine, but that made just one MPt difference, leaving N/S with a zero.


Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ 7 3 2		
	♥ A K Q J 8 7		
	♦ –		
	♣ 7 5 4 2		
♠ A		♠ Q J 9 8 5	
♥ 10 9		♥ 3 2	
♦ A K 9 7 6 2		♦ 10 5 4	
♣ Q 10 8 3		♣ A J 9	
	♠ K 10 6 4		
	♥ 6 5 4		
	♦ Q J 8 3		
	♣ K 6		

West	North	East	South
<i>Sabagh</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Al Tagi</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Sabagh found herself uncomfortably high due to Al Tagi's try for game over the 3♦ rebid. Iasonas cashed two top hearts then switched to a club which went to the nine and king, and Ioanna returned her remaining club. Sabagh won the ♦J and led a diamond to her ace then, on seeing the four-nil break, tried to cross to dummy with the ace of clubs to lead a diamond through Ioanna's holding. However, the ace was ruffed and there as still a trump to be lost so the contract was down two for +100 but only a 40% score to N/S.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.


	♠ 10 6 5 4		
	♥ A 5 4 3		
	♦ 6		
	♣ A K J 8		
♠ K Q 9		♠ 8 7 2	
♥ Q 8 7 2		♥ K J 10 9	
♦ Q J 10 9		♦ A 5 3 2	
♣ 10 3		♣ 9 5	
	♠ A J 3		
	♥ 6		
	♦ K 8 7 4		
	♣ Q 7 6 4 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>A. Audiche</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>C. Audiche</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

How often do we see those playing a mini NT open one off-shape? Add Ioanna to the list, her opening showing 10-13. Iasonas used Stayman then followed through with 2NT when no fit came to light, and Ioanna declined the invitation.

Alain Audiche led the queen of diamonds round to Ioanna's king. Ioanna crossed to the ace of clubs to try a spade to the jack, losing to the king. The defence cashed out the diamonds, ending in the East hand, and Christina Audiche now played back a spade. Ioanna took her ace and cashed out the cubs and ♥A. The contract was just made for +120 but only 28%.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

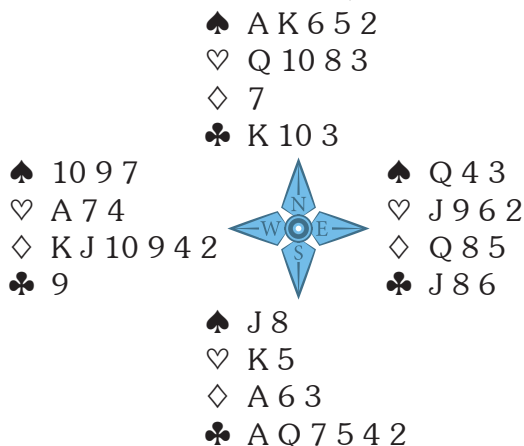
	♠ A Q 8		
	♥ 9 7		
	♦ 9 8 7 6 5 3		
	♣ J 9		
♠ 5 4		♠ 10 7 6 3 2	
♥ K Q 3		♥ 8 6 5	
♦ K Q J		♦ 4 2	
♣ Q 8 7 5 2		♣ A 6 4	
	♠ K J 9		
	♥ A J 10 4 2		
	♦ A 10		
	♣ K 10 3		

West	North	East	South
<i>A. Audiche</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>C. Audiche</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1♦	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Alain's 1♥ opening was passed round to Ioanna, who doubled then followed through with 1NT. However, Iasonas preferred the safety and flexibility offered by playing in his long suit and 2♦ ended the auction.

Christina led a spade, Iasonas winning the jack and playing ace and another diamond. Alain won the second diamond and cashed the third before returning a club to his partner's ace. There was just a heart to lose from here, so nine tricks for +110 and 48%.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.



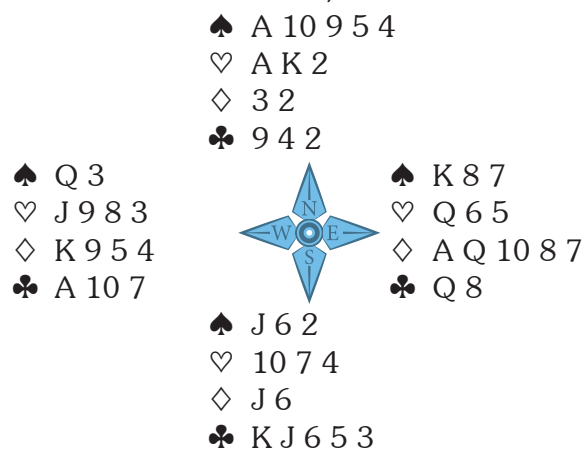
West	North	East	South
<i>Nourallah</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Masri</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Apart from the double of fourth-suit forcing, N/S had the bidding to themselves. As Iasonas had bid out his pattern and Ioanna had only one diamond stopper and slam might be an option, she went past 3NT to make a try. And, indeed, slam could have been on any lead as the cards lay.

Nourallah led the ten of spades. Ioanna won the ace and played ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, then led a heart to the king and ace. Back came the king of diamonds and she chose to ruff high, after which she had a trump loser so made only 11 for +600 and 30%.

Diamonds could hardly be seven-two, so ruffing with the ten was surely safe and might even be necessary to make game if clubs were four-zero.

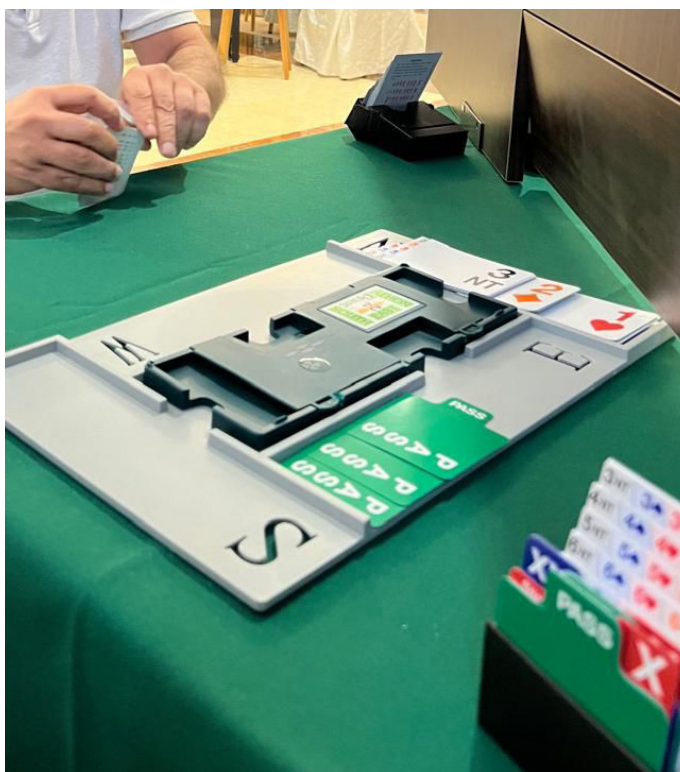
Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Nourallah</i>	<i>Papaspirou</i>	<i>Masri</i>	<i>Pollatou</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♦	All Pass		


Three Spades would surely have been defeated, while competing to 4♦ ran the risk of going minus. However, run the risk and will go minus are two different things. Ioanna led the two of spades against 4♦ and Iasonas rose with the ace, thereby allowing declarer two spade tricks. To be fair, it's hard not to get this wrong as putting in the nine costs a trick when partner has led from the king.

Iasonas now cashed the ace and king of hearts and continued with a third one. A club switch would have set up the fourth defensive winner before declarer had set up the hearts. As it was, Nourallah could win the third heart, draw trumps, and get rid of dummy's club loser on the thirteenth heart; just made for –130 and another 30% board.





Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K 8 3		♠ 10 9 5 4 2
♥ A 9 8		♥ J 5 4 2
♦ Q 8 7 4 3		♦ K
♣ J 7		♣ Q 9 2
♠ A Q		
♥ K Q 7		
♦ 10 6		
♣ A 10 8 6 4 3		


West	North	East	South
Ahmed	Papaspirou	Skilijian	Pollatou
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Ioanna opened a strong NT and soon found herself in 3NT having denied a five-card major in response to Iasonas's enquiry.

Ahmed led a diamond which Ioanna ducked to the bare king, and Skilijian switched to the two of hearts, Ioanna thought about playing low but eventually put up the king, losing to the ace. Back came the nine of hearts to the ten, jack and duck, and a third heart cleared the suit. The king of clubs and a club to the ten, however, set up that suit without letting the hand with the long heart in to cash out. Ahmed won the ♣ J and returned a diamond, and Ioanna put in the jack,

cached the ace, and had four clubs to cash, so the contract was just made for +600 and a 72% board.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ J 5 3 2		♠ 10 8 7 6
♥ 9 6 3		♥ K Q 8 7 4 2
♦ A 8 2		♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 4		♣ 2
♠ Q 9		
♥ A 5		
♦ K J 4 3		
♣ Q 9 7 5 3		

West	North	East	South
Ahmed	Papaspirou	Skilijian	Pollatou
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass.	

Iasonas opened a potentially short club and after a pass from Skilijian Ioanna made an inverted raise. Three No Trump showed better than a strong NT and that ended the auction. Skilijian led a low heart and that ran to the ten, after which all Iasonas had to do was to knockout the ace of diamonds to establish 12 tricks for +490 and 75% of the matchpoints.

The strong last round could not disguise the fact that our N/S pair had not had a good session. It proved to be worth 47.14% and put them 35th in the 62-pair field.





# RESULTS - PAIRS

		SCORE	%
1	May Rifai - Amjad Demashkeih	1731.4	60.12
2	Elvan Edis - Timur Edis	1697.2	58.93
3	Kariman Mazher - Ahmed Samir Zaki	1680.5	58.35
4	Zain Atassi - Salim Trapolsi	1654.4	57.45
5	Christina Audiche - Alain Audiche	1651.3	57.34
6	Rita Ghosn - Hany Dagher	1635.6	56.79
7	Mona Bamehrez - Vassilis	1605.6	55.75
8	Arianna Testa - Dimitrios Kapiris	1593.3	55.32
9	Hoda Soliman - Mahmoud Zaitoun	1583.8	54.99
10	Amal Rahbany - Bassem Afiouny	1558	54.1
11	Selvi Skilijian - Baher Ahmed	1553	53.92
12	Fayza Al Azem - George Kachami	1552.9	53.92
13	Nadia El Araby - Walid El Ahmady	1543.3	53.59
14	Maria Hindi - Mohamed Magdy	1538	53.4
15	Noheir Omar - Sherif Helmy	1529	53.09
16	Suhair Middad - Moaz Hammam	1518.2	52.71
17	Dalia Hashem - Abdelrahman Mosaad	1509	52.4
18	Firuz Bedwan - Hossam Negm	1507	52.33
19	Nuha Al Raai - Ahmed Mansour	1506.5	52.31
20	Mona Al Zaben - Ayman Azzam	1506.2	52.3
21	Hanan Al Akkad - Ahmed Omran	1501.9	52.15
22	Nermeen Qasim - Humyoun Sumar	1500.9	52.12
23	Sarmad Al Sharif - Maher Hefny	1500.2	52.09
24	Hoda Rebae - Khaled Hassan	1499.1	52.05
25	Lina Assad - Walid Assad	1492.6	51.83
26	Maissa Farhani - Radwan Attasi	1490	51.74
27	Mariam Bander - Ahmed Harb	1481.8	51.45
28	Mimi A Ghazalah - Karim Nabil	1480.1	51.39
29	Jalila Ghodbhan - Asser Fadaly	1479.4	51.37
30	Yassmin A Jaber - Ghassan Ghanem	1467.6	50.96
31	Lina Al Masri - Ahmed Samir	1464.9	50.87
32	Hala A. Farraj - Mohamed Heshmat	1464.9	50.86
33	Yana Sabagh - Mohamed Al Tagi	1455.9	50.55
34	Mayssa Harwil - Mohamed Al Azem	1451.8	50.41
35	Dina El Awady - Ibrahim El Sebah	1446.4	50.22
36	Aaida Abu Jaber - Sakher Malkawi	1443.2	50.11
37	Nahla Hamdan - Faten Farahat	1441.4	50.05
38	Hanan Al Masri - Marwan Ghanem	1436.5	49.88

		SCORE	%
39	Fatma Manadily - Imran Ali	1426.4	49.53
40	Rawya Akl - Ahmed Rabie	1422.3	49.39
41	Hala Al Malki - Mohamed Badaowd	1401.2	48.65
42	Sawsan Al Ebiary - Tamer Abbas	1396.3	48.48
43	Wafa Nourallah - Walid Masri	1368.7	47.52
44	Hassana Zubi - Shauk Hussein	1365.5	47.41
45	Roula Abbad - Samer Koussa	1357.4	47.13
46	Fadia Najjar - Jahangir Ahmed	1348	46.81
47	Ioanna Pollatou - Iasonas Papaspirou	1342.8	46.62
48	Wafiga Al Sadat - Mohamed Abdelazim	1333.4	46.3
49	Hana Kredieh - Khaled Kattan	1327.5	46.09
50	Amal Amer - Ahmed Nayer	1321.4	45.88
51	Afaf Abu Qasim - Abdelaziz Al Sogair	1319.8	45.83
52	Nowel Trawneh - Aziz Amer	1309.3	45.46
53	Raghda Quatli - Khirat Ramadan	1302.7	45.23
54	Samia Al Selfiti - Minhaj Qadawi	1292.2	44.87
55	Farida Botrous - Mohamed Dewidar	1281.3	44.49
56	Skrodas - Raseli	1279.8	44.44
57	Kinda Jazzar - Farid Aita	1277.4	44.35
58	Nesrine Hamdy - Karim Salama	1257.3	43.66
59	Hanan Shaaban - Faiz Hassan	1216	42.22
60	Samar Aqbik - Bassam Shaaban	1140.5	39.6
61	Meraay Azzouz - Mai Hourani	1080.5	37.52
62	Randa Al Malki - Sherif Mujahed	1030.5	35.78

